

Response under 37 CFR 1.111
Serial No. 09/725,147
Attorney Docket No. 001574

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 have each been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 28, 2005.

Examiner Interview:

The courtesy extended by Examiner Henn to Applicant's representative, Tom Brown, during the October 20, 2005 telephone Interview is gratefully appreciated. The substance of such interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner relies on the newly cited reference of Kijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,882,366) in setting forth the following rejection:

claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730, of record) in view of Kijima et al. and Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534, of record).¹

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

¹ It appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1-4 in part on Anderson given the Examiner's reliance on Anderson in pages 3 and 4 of the Action.

According to the present invention, recorded to a recording medium in a coded state are a plurality of frames of main image data and a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data which are obtained by successive picture-taking operations. Herein, a main image coder codes a single frame of main image data every time a single picture-taking operation is carried out so as to create a single frame of coded main image data which is reduced in a data amount prior to the taking of the next successive picture. A main image writer writes the single frame of coded main image data to an internal memory every time a single coding operation is carried out by the main image coder. The plurality of frames of size-reduced image data is coded by a size-reduced image coder after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Thus, a single frame of coded main image data is written to the internal memory every time a single coding operation is carried out, and a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data is coded after ending the successive picture taking operations. Therefore, it is possible to reduce a capacity of the internal memory and shorten a picture taking interval in the successive picture taking operations.

In contrast, Nagasaki et al. disclose to temporarily write to a memory card a plurality of frames of still image data obtained by successive picture taking operations and subject each frame of the still image data to a data processing such as data compression after ending the successive picture taking operations. However, Nagasaki et al. fail to disclose or remotely

suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which codes a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Kajima et al. disclose to read out pixel signals concerning K (K is a positive integer) vertically continuous lines of a CCD. However, Kajima et al. also fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which codes a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Anderson discloses to record to a removable memory main image data and size-reduced image data i.e. scrennail image data in a compression state. However, no successive picture taking operations are carried out in Anderson, and therefore, Anderson fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about coding a plurality of frames of the size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to reach the present invention from each of the references or a combination thereof, and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

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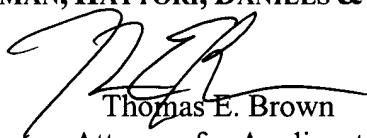
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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